Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DOTE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

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O 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, RP

SUBJ: PAL DC-10 SEIZURE--COURT APPEAL

- 1. ECOM/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR WAS INFORMED BY PAL VP IGOA JANUARY 2 THAT PAL HAD APPEALED EARLIER COURT DECISION AND HAD APPROACHED JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ATTORNEYS RE POSSIBLE OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENT. JUSTICE LAWYERS APPARENTLY TOLD PAL ATTORNEY THAT ANY SETTLEMENT BELOW \$50,000 WAS QUOTE OUT OF THE QUESTION UNQUOTE AND THAT JUSTICE PREFERRED A MINIMUM PENALTY OF AT LEAST \$100,000. BECAUSE OF THIS RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY STEEP JUSTICE RESPONSE, IGOA SAID PAL HAD DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE APPEAL, AND A HEARING HAS BEEN SET FOR JANUARY 9.
- 2. EMBASSY FINDS THE REPORTED JUSTICE POSITION, IF CORRECTLY RELATED, TO BE A GOOD DEAL STIFFER THAN EXPECTED. IT IS CERTAINLY MUCH TOUGHER THAN THE EMBASSY, GOP, OR PAL HAS BEEN LED TO CONSIDER ADEQUATE.
- 3. REQUEST DEPARTMENT DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH USCAB AND WITH JUSTICE TO SEE WHETHER A MORE MODEST SETTLE-MENT CAN BE AGREED. IN LIGHT THESE DISCUSSIONS, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON WHAT MIGHT NOW BE SAID TO PAL REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENT.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

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